

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

| | | |
|---|---|----------------------|
| In the Matter of |) | |
| |) | |
| Petition of Qwest Corporation for Forbearance |) | WC Docket No. 04-223 |
| Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 160(c) in the Omaha |) | |
| Metropolitan Statistical Area |) | |
| |) | |

MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Pursuant to Section 1.46 of the Commission’s rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.46, CompTel/ASCENT (“CompTel”) files this Motion requesting the Commission extend the period for all interested parties to file comments and reply comments in the above-captioned proceeding from August 10, 2004 and September 9, 2004, respectively, to August 24, 2004 and September 23, 2004, respectively. This brief extension of time would permit more complete responses on the issues raised in these proceedings and this modest extension would not prejudice any interested parties.

On June 25, 2004, the Commission issued a notice establishing a pleading cycle for comments on Qwest Corporation’s (“Qwest”) petition. The petition asks the Commission “to forbear from applying requirements of Section 251(c) and of Section 271(c)(2)(B)(i-vi) and (xiv) of the 1996 Act to Qwest in the Omaha, Nebraska Metropolitan Statistical Area....” Petition at 1. The petition also asks that the Commission to “further forbear from regulating Qwest as a dominant carrier and as the incumbent local exchange carrier ... in the Omaha MSA.” Id.

Qwest filed its petition with critical information redacted and subject to a request for confidential treatment. The Commission adopted a protective order on June 25, 2004 (DA 04-1870). Assessing Qwest's petition inevitably requires detailed review of redacted content of its submission, which has required carriers to seek coverage under the protective order for appropriate personnel, a process that has significantly delayed access to the full content of Qwest's petition.

The petition raises extraordinary issues of significant importance to incumbent local exchange carriers, the Bell Operating Companies, and all carriers that compete against them, particularly in local exchange markets. In light of the significance of the issues raised and claims made by Qwest's petition, of the time needed to secure access to the non-redacted submission under the protective order, and the need for thorough review and assessment by appropriate expert personnel before comments can be fashioned, the comment cycle established in the Public Notice is inadequate to ensure CompTel members and others have sufficient time to provide the Commission with full, informed comments on the petition. A brief two-week extension of the pleading cycle would certainly facilitate the development of a more complete record for the Commission's review. No prejudice to any party would result from this modest extension.

CompTel respectfully submits that in this proceeding as well, grant of the additional time requested would allow all interested parties a meaningful opportunity to respond to issues raised in the comments, and would assist the Commission in reaching its decision based on a complete record.

For all of these reasons, CompTel respectfully requests that the Commission grant its motion for an extension of time until July 24, 2004 to file comments and until September 23, 2004 to file reply comments in this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan D. Lee
Sr. Vice President, Regulatory Affairs
CompTel/ASCENT
1900 M Street, N. W., Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel: (202) 296-6650

July 29, 2004